CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 12, 2010

H.R. 4645
Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on June 30, 2010

H.R. 4645 would prohibit, with a few specific exemptions, the federal government from regulating or restricting travel or travel-related transactions between the United States and Cuba. (Travel to Cuba is currently regulated by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control.) The legislation also would amend restrictions on financial transactions between the United States and Cuba related to the sale of specified goods. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4645 would reduce revenues by insignificant amounts each year.

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. Violations of the current travel restrictions to Cuba can result in civil and criminal fines. Hence, enacting H.R. 4645 would reduce the amount of fines currently collected. Collections of civil fines are recorded in the budget as revenues and deposited into the general fund of the Treasury. Criminal fines are also recorded in the budget as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and spent in subsequent years. Based on information from the Department of the Treasury, CBO estimates that allowing travel and travel-related transactions to Cuba would reduce the amount of fines collected by less than $500,000 each year and in total over the 2010-2020 period.

H.R. 4645 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.